

Headlee looks at life with a new heart

By Anne Palmer
special writer

RICHARD HEADLEE was eating a bowl of soup at a ZCMI department store in Salt Lake City when his deeper sound.

"Dick, we've got your heart. Can you come right up to the hospital?" asked cardiac transplant coordinator Cheryl Holland.

There had been several false alarms during the five weeks he had been in Utah waiting for a donor organ, but this was the real thing.

"I spent 25 frantic minutes looking for my wife. We were shopping, and that was the first time we'd been separated for five weeks," said Headlee, former Michigan candidate for governor.

He took the calamity in stride, just as he did when he found out the "asthma" that had been giving him trouble was actually heart disease. But Headlee, 57, a Farmington Hills insurance executive with a fondness for Utah, is the kind of person whose vision is restricted to good in the world. He doesn't begrudge the doctors who had attributed his breathing problems to asthma.

"I'm just really grateful I was here," he says, gesturing out his living room window to the snow-covered foothills of the Wasatch Mountains. "It wasn't happenstance I was in Utah, where the transplant program has such a great track record."

HEADLEE was playing in a benefit golf tournament in Sun Valley, Idaho, last August when he began having difficulty walking up hills. Later, when he went to Park City, Utah, to visit family and friends, he became alarmed.

"I couldn't breathe when I laid down," he said. His heart muscle had been losing its elasticity, diminishing its pumping power and leaving fluid in his lungs.

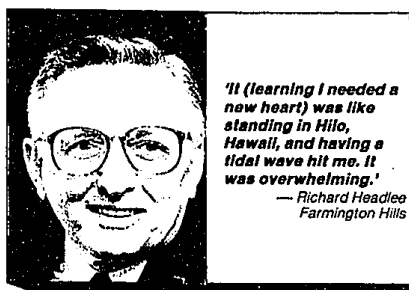
"I think you've got congestive heart problems," Dr. Burt Evans said, analyzing Headlee's chest X-ray the following afternoon. "You may need a transplant sometime in the next five to 10 years."

A second specialist expressed more urgency. "He said I should consider a transplant right now," according to Headlee. "It was like standing in Hilo, Hawaii, and having a tidal wave hit me. It was overwhelming," Headlee said.

A day and a half later, a third doctor told him there was a 50-50 chance his heart would last another year. Headlee gave Utah Transplant physicians permission that day to add his name to the list of patients with end-stage heart disease awaiting heart transplants.

He and his wife, Mary, prepared to extend their Western visit indefinitely. They rented a high-rise apartment in downtown Salt Lake City and outfitted it with computers linking it with the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America offices in Farmington Hills.

WHILE THEY waited for the call from the transplant team, the Headlees visited with three of their nine children. Howard, 22, is an accounting student at Brigham



"(Learning I needed a new heart) was like standing in Hilo, Hawaii, and having a tidal wave hit me. It was overwhelming."

— Richard Headlee
Farmington Hills

Young University, and 19-year-old Elaine was working at ZCMI in Provo until she started at BYU last semester. Another daughter and her husband live in Monroe, Utah.

The waiting also gave Headlee the opportunity to reflect. A graduate of Richfield High School and Utah State University, Headlee's first job was as a trainee in accounting and bookkeeping for the Burroughs Co.

He lived in Bountiful, where he became involved with the local Jaycees. Soon after, he was elected president of the Utah Jaycees.

In 1963, he was elected president of the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. As president of the national organization, Headlee, his wife and "six or seven kids" spent a year traveling throughout the country

attending civic engagements.

Following his term, Burroughs transferred the Headlees to Detroit, where Headlee was enlisted to aid the gubernatorial re-election effort and then the bid for the presidency of Republican George Romney.

Ten years and two job changes later, Headlee was sitting as a member of the board of directors of Alexander Hamilton Life when he was offered the job of vice president of investments and president of the Hamilton Development Company.

IN 1971, he was elected president and chief operating officer of the parent company, Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of America, which at that time was losing money and had little more

than \$100 million in assets. Today, the assets total more than \$2 billion.

After he reshaped the company, he began doing the same for his state's economy.

In 1977, he started a drive to amend the state's constitution by limiting spending and taxes and restricting growth in government to match revenue. Some 450,000 petitioners gave the campaign their support in 1978, the amendment passed.

Then in 1982, when the state was deeply in debt and falling further into the red, "I lost my head and ran for public office," Headlee chuckled.

He won the Republican nomination for governor but lost the election to then-U.S. representative and current Gov. James Blanchard.

He describes the loss as a blessing.

"You couldn't get a heart transplant if you were governor," he said.

He may be right. Last week, he underwent his 10th biopsy — minor operations during which sample heart tissue is examined for signs of rejection and infection. Before Thanksgiving, his gall bladder was removed, and a viral infection has been troubling him for weeks.

DRUGS to reduce the chances of rejecting the 20-year-old heart that beats in his chest make him vulnerable to other infections. He must exercise and adhere to a strict 2,200-calorie diet daily. He monitors his blood pressure, blood sugar, weight and temperature daily. And he can't shake hands with visitors.

The worst part of the recovery stage, he says, is that he can't squeeze his grandchildren.

He hopes to be excused from his weekly hospital visits and return to Michigan in early February.

He plans to return regularly for tests and will schedule visits to coincide with the April and October general conferences of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Headlee converted to the Mormon faith after he left Utah.

"I had to get away from it all to really appreciate it," he said, recalling August 1966, when he "quit smoking and drinking all in the same day."

His son, Michael, 16 at the time, performed his baptism. For the past five years, Headlee has served as a regional representative of the LDS Church in Michigan.

WHEN HE was admitted to Latter-day Saints Hospital in Salt Lake City Oct. 7 for his transplant, he received blessings from numerous church leaders, including one president, Thomas Monson, second counselor in the First Presidency.

Elder Russell Nelson, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and Elder Paul Dunn, a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy, met him at LDS Hospital Oct. 7 when he was admitted for his transplant.

"The thing that's come out of this whole thing is an overwhelming, uncontrollable fountain of gratitude. It makes a real softy out of me," he said.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Clamdiggers returns with its original menu

Diggers, the Farmington Hills restaurant, assumed its original name, Clamdiggers, Dec. 17.

The menu will bring back original items, as well, featuring the daily fisherman's catch, fresh fish shipped daily from the east, the Great Lakes, Canada and Florida.

Clamdiggers will also feature the Clamdiggers Seafood Platter, which includes Oyster Imperial, Shrimp Glyn, Maryland Crabs, frog legs and chargrilled fresh fish. Paella, a combination of fresh fish, mussels

and clams simmered in a light clam broth with Italian sausage and bread of chicken, has also returned to the menu.

"We are reacting to our customers with the nostalgic move to bring back the original Clamdiggers," said Pat Diggers, director of marketing.

"Our guests will find Clamdiggers offers the most elegant choice in casual dining."

Each week, Champagne Thursday will be celebrated at Clamdiggers with champagne by the glass. Four

selections of champagne, beginning at \$1.25 a glass, will be available throughout the day.

Clamdiggers has also brought back the piano bar, which will provide nightly entertainment.

Clamdiggers is at 30555 Grand River, Farmington. The phone number is 478-3800. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday.



Serving up the fresh seafood at Clamdiggers' raw bar are manager Alex Bikis (left) and corporate chef Craig Commons.

Kitchen talk

Charley's taps new corporate chef

Craig Commons was recently named corporate chef for Charley's Restaurants, Inc. The Farmington Hills resident will oversee the kitchen operations of each of the restaurants and is responsible for menu and recipe development.

Chief Craig brings to Charley's Restaurants Inc. 12 years of experience with C.A. Muer Corp., including the position of divisional chef.

During his time with Muer, Chef Craig oversaw 16 restaurant openings from the coast of New England to Florida.

His responsibilities included overseeing kitchen design, menu planning, recipe development, training of kitchen personnel and maintaining quality food standards. The restaurants included Florida's Chuck and Harold's and Charley's Crab in Palm

Beach, and Charley's Crab of Sarasota.

Chief Craig, 33, received his training from Michigan's Chef Larry, beginning a career at the Pontchartrain Hotel Restaurant. He is a member of the Michigan Chefs de Cuisine Association.

Charley's Restaurants Inc. includes Clamdiggers in Farmington Hills.

Thinking of Selling Your Jewelry?

SFE ROBERT GALE
Fine Jewelry in Birmingham
7208 Adams
Mo. in Ala. 35244
644-6650
Closed Mon.

Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office.

It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.

friends & lovers
Astrological Profiles

Your friends & lovers report is a counseling astrologer's comparison of two individual birth horoscopes. Each report is twelve or more pages in length, and explores your relationship from several points of view.

How does each of you approach relationships in general? Do you have an easy time becoming close? What parts of either personality will help or hinder a relationship, and how are they revealed in the birth chart?

After exploring these questions for both individuals, the report goes on to see how the two charts interconnect in this unique relationship. How will these two get along? What role does each play here?

The report is calculated just for you (based on your birth dates) and its accuracy can be startling... sometimes it's just too close for comfort!

Let friends & lovers reveal new insights into non-romantic relationships, too: family, friends, business... anyone you'd like to know more about.

Order Form

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Telephone _____

Is this report to be written for a
☐ Romantic ☐ Non-romantic (a friendship?)

First person

Estimated _____
☐ Male ☐ Female
Date (month/year) _____
Birthplace (optional) _____
Time of day (optional) _____ AM ☐ PM

Second person

Estimated _____
☐ Male ☐ Female
Date (month/year) _____
Birthplace (optional) _____
Time of day (optional) _____ AM ☐ PM

Send \$25 to:
Thomas R. Parsons P.M.A.P.A.
P.O. Box 7111
Burlington, NJ 08013
643-1399

Atlantic Drapery Co.

SALE

FABRIC & LABOR SPECIAL

On Drapery, Slipcovers & Upholstery

Large Selection of Upholstery Fabrics

476-7790 or 476-7035

32305 Grand River (W. of Orchard Lake) Farmington MI 48024

GOLF IN THE SUN!!!

LET P.A.R. GOLF ARRANGE YOUR GOLF VACATION

- FLORIDA
- GEORGIA
- MYRTLE BEACH
- CALIFORNIA and more from \$59 a day!

LOW CHARTER FARES TO FLORIDA & CARRIBEAN Through...

P.A.R. GOLF, INC.
930 MASON—DEARBORN
562-2533
800-222-2220

key
Tours

From head to toe, a new you can emerge!

Cosmetic surgery at the hands of experienced surgeons will give you a new look and outlook!

G. Jan Beekhuis, M.D., F.A.C.S.
and Jeffrey J. Colton, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Specializing in all facets of facial and nose cosmetic surgery procedures

announce that
Michael F. Milan, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Certified by the Board of Plastic Surgery and specializing in breast reconstruction, breast and body reconstructing and liposuction is now associated with their practice

CALL NOW (313) 645-0844 for your free copy of our newest pamphlet answering the most frequently asked questions regarding all aspects of cosmetic surgery. It's yours for just a phone call.

**G. JAN BEEKHUIS, M.D., F.A.C.S.
JEFFREY J. COLTON, M.D., F.A.C.S.
MICHAEL F. MILAN, M.D., F.A.C.S.**

30700 Telegraph Rd., Suite 4566, Birmingham, AL 35210 • 313/645-0844
Just south of 13 Mile Rd.